REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Final Office Action mailed March 17, 2006 and to the Advisory Action mailed May 11, 2006. In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 3-6, 10, 12-15, 17, 19-23, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Morita et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0158161 ("Morita"), and claims 2, 7-9, 11, 16, 18, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Morita in view of Boutni, U.S. Patent No. 4,749,738 ("Boutni").

With this Response, claims 3-4, 12-13, and 19-22 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 10, and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-2, 5-11, 14-18, and 23-26 remain pending in the application and are presented for consideration and allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 12-15, 17, 19-23, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morita.

The Examiner takes the position at page 2 of the Final Office Action mailed March 17, 2006, that Morita teaches a tape reel assembly including a hub defining a tape winding surface and teeth 42 and 63. This interpretation was discussed with the Examiner in a teleconference on June 5, 2006. The Examiner's position, with reference to Morita at FIG. 3, is that the restraining member 4 and the releasing member 6 (having teeth 63) are separate components that couple with the hub to restrain its movement, such that the hub can be broadly viewed to "include" teeth 63. To this end, the Examiner suggested that amendments to the pending claims to positively recite driven teeth that are integrally formed by the hub would obviate the rejections under section 102 to the claims, which is noted with appreciation.

interview summary OK

With this in mind, independent claim 1 has been amended to provide a hub portion including a hub defining a tape winding surface that includes a first end and an opposing second end, a flange extending in a radial fashion from an end of the hub, and driven teeth integrally formed by the hub as an extension of one of the opposing ends of the tape winding surface and